

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (amended). An assembly for cleaning exhaust gas, comprising:

a metallic catalyst carrier body without a tubular jacket for installation in an exhaust pipe casing, said catalyst carrier body having a longitudinal axis, an interior with a plurality of flow paths and an outer surface; and

at least one substantially plate-shaped retaining element to be fastened in said exhaust pipe casing, said retaining element extending in a plane, said plane including an angle with said longitudinal axis of said catalyst carrier body, said retaining element having an opening formed therein and a protrusion for receiving and securing said catalyst carrier body, said protrusion surrounding only a part of said outer surface of said catalyst carrier body, said retaining element fastened directly on said catalyst carrier body, and said retaining element at least one of holding said catalyst carrier body together in a dimensionally stable state and substantially supporting said catalyst carrier body on its own.

Claim 3 (amended). The assembly according to claim 2, wherein said exhaust pipe casing is disposed within a muffler casing.

Claim 7 (amended). The assembly according to claim 5, wherein said elliptical opening has two short sides and said protrusion includes a flanged subregion at each of said short sides.

Claim 10 (amended). The assembly according to claim 1, wherein said catalyst carrier body is constructed substantially of at least partially structured layers of sheet metal being at least one of wound, laminated and intertwined with one another to form channels for said plurality of flow paths.

Claim 11 (amended). The assembly according to claim 10, wherein said layers of sheet metal are coated with catalytically active material.